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A woman driving a steam plough at Cambridge University Farm in during the First World War
TOPICAL PRESS AGENCY

them, no revival of arable farming can be looked for.

If the Nene and Ouse navigations were remodelled and a 14-mile canal cut from Bedford to Fenny Stratford, a vast acreage of farmland would be linked to the Midlands.

We have 1,100,000 able-bodied employable men who would be working instead of on the dole.

G.C. Henderson

The question of farm ploughing – 1916

THE effect of the war on agriculture was discussed by March war Agricultural Committee.

The Labour question above all was one that they would be called upon to deal with. Efforts were being made to try and get some trials of a motor plough.

The question of ploughing was very acute; smallholders seemed quite capable of managing to plough their land at present.

As there were no shortages of horses and implements, they need not necessarily worry themselves very much about motor ploughs.

They did not know much about motor ploughs and whether they were adapted to working on their Fenland. It was recommended that a motor plough trial was desirable.

The most delicate point was the harvest. They were all right until then, but what was going to be done to gather in the heavy Fen harvest? If they could not get the men to gather in that harvest, they were done.

Mrs George Bell of Pymoor is a pioneer amongst women in this district in taking up man's work on a farm. She was recently seen ploughing with a team and doing it as well as any man could do it.

Mass support for Mr Buckmaster – 1910

SCENES without parallel in the recent political history of Cambridge were witnessed in connection with the great Liberal demonstration in support of Mr Buckmaster's candidature.

The Guildhall could contain but a fraction of the crowds and an overflow meeting had to be held in the Corn Exchange which itself was packed to capacity.

At both, Mr Buckmaster had a tremendous reception, the audiences rising en masse and waving hats, handkerchiefs and leaflets and cheering in deafening choruses for several minutes.

Saxon Cement Works' annual dinner – 1910

THE annual dinner of the Saxon Cement Works, the Norman Cement Works and the Atlas Stone Company took place at the Lion Hotel, Petty Cury.

The cement industry was important for Cambridge. They had started with 128 men, today they employ over 300 with a permanent staff of 70 clerks and supervisors.

They had spent over £150,000 in coal and coke, and another £150,000 in materials from machinery to stationery. Close on £200,000 had paid in wages, most in Cambridge, and the railway companies had received more than £300,000 over the last seven years.

Few support women's right to vote – 1910

TO have filled the large hall at the Guildhall to the very doors and held the attention of a crowded audience for nearly two hours would have been a great score for the Cambridge Union of women's suffrage societies at any time.

But to have done so when both political parties are working at high pressure and three big political meetings were being held the same night was a veritable triumph.

Nobody who listened to the clear, forcible, eloquent speeches of the ladies could fail to have been impressed, the few interruptions from the back of the hall being of a very mild and harmless character.

But few of those present backed a call for women to have the same right to vote as men.

Library instils passion for reading – 1904

THE Cambridge free library committee is desirous that no resident should remain ignorant of the means at their disposal for acquiring knowledge.

They have authorised the sale of the new catalogue at considerably less than the cost price and issued a circular to every house.

The central library reading room, with its wide selection of newspapers and periodical literature, invariably has its full complement of readers.

Borrowers are induced to take a work of fiction and another work away together and so a taste for reading of the useful kind is being instilled.

Water unfit to wash clothes in – 1899

SIR, I should like to know how it is the children who come over a mile to Girton School cannot be provided with a little water to drink, as there is a well and a pump not 50 yards from the school doors.

Some of the cottagers compare its water to Monkey Brand soap – it is not fit to wash clothes. If you put it in a copper and boil it, there is scum like yeast. It is no use letting the water be consumed and disease spread.

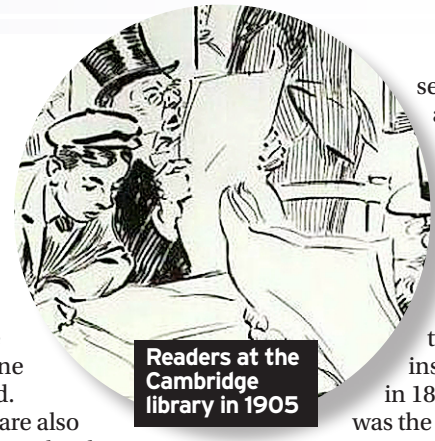
NEPTUNE

Re-opening Institute Reading Room – 1898

THE re-opening of the Institute Reading Room, at Castle End, under the new regime of municipal management took place quite informally on Monday evening.

Cold, foggy weather, such prevailed on that night, would not seem to be the best conditions for such an event, yet the brightly lit, warm, and cosy room, where the inhabitants of this district may now read the news of the world, seemed all the more welcome with such uncomfortable conditions existing out of doors.

Since the room has been under the control of the Public Library Committee, several improvements have been effected. The incandescent light has been fitted up, and there are now two fairly large tables, each with nine or ten chairs around.



Readers at the Cambridge library in 1905

Two small tables are also provided, and a curtain has been fixed to keep the draught of the door from readers. A number of coloured pictures adorned the walls, and there is the nucleus of a library: the dozen bound volumes of the Illustrated London News which find a place in one corner.

A custodian's sanctum is a development which the near future will bring forth. The two tables are well stocked with literature, which, if not extensive, is at least happily selected. Twelve weekly papers are taken, and seven magazines and seven London morning papers complete the list.

This room has been used as a reading room for ten years past, it being built two years after the institute was opened in 1884, and its erection was the outcome of the generous interest shown by Dr. Hart and Mrs. M. I. Whibley.

The committee of the institute made a very generous offer to the library committee, namely, to let the room, providing fire and gas, at the nominal rent of a year, and with such an inducement, it can be readily understood that the committee, fortified by the resolution recently passed by the town council, at once embraced the opportunity to add to the educational facilities of Cambridge.

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